



REMOVING MERCURY FROM MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS



Background

The *Partnership for Environmental Health & Safety in Schools* is a program of the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) that assists public secondary schools in identifying and safely managing hazardous chemicals, with the goal of reducing, replacing or eliminating them from the school environment.

Why Mercury?

Mercury is poisonous and can damage the nervous system, kidneys, liver and immune system. Typical exposures to mercury come from breathing its fumes during an accidental spill or leak, or by eating fish contaminated with mercury. Children are most at risk from mercury's toxic effects and can suffer potentially serious neurological damage.

Devices or chemicals that contain mercury, and jars of elemental mercury, are a liability for schools. Improper handling of mercury and accidents that result in a spill can cause significant health problems, with serious financial and legal consequences.

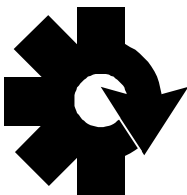
How OTA can help

Schools participating in the OTA program must complete a hazardous materials assessment, and clean out their stock of chemicals that are old or no longer needed by the schools. Elemental mercury and mercury compounds are among the hazardous materials targeted for removal.

Three firms that operate waste-to-energy plants within the state have volunteered to assist the schools with mercury issues and proper removal. These firms will accept mercury from schools, and replace some types of mercury-bearing devices with those that do not contain mercury.

Here's what to do:

1. Identify the sources of mercury. Attached to this fact sheet is a checklist developed by the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) that will help you identify sources of mercury in different locations within your school;
2. If you find any of the devices or compounds that contain mercury, isolate them from students, faculty and staff and;
3. Check the list on the back of this fact sheet to see which of the waste-to-energy firms serves your community. Call the person who is identified to help you dispose of your mercury devices or compounds; if your community is not served by any of the waste-to-energy firms, contact OTA at 617-626-1060.



Massachusetts Office of
Technical Assistance for
Toxics Use Reduction
100 Cambridge Street, Ste. 900
Boston, MA 02114
617.626.1060
617.626.1095 fax
www.mass.gov/ota

To Recycle Mercury From Schools

If you live in one of these towns, you are served by the SEMass waste-to-energy plant. Call Sidi Mateo at 508-291-4427.

Acushnet	Duxbury	Marion	Rockland
Attleboro	Eastham	Martha's Vineyard	Sandwich
Barnstable	Edgartown	Mashpee	Scituate
Bellingham	Fairhaven	Mattapoisett	Sharon
Berkley	Falmouth	Middleborough	Stoughton
Blackstone	Freetown	Milton	Sudbury
Bourne	Halifax	Norfolk	Truro
Braintree	Hanover	Norwell	W. Bridgewater
Brewster	Hanson	Orleans	Waltham
Canton	Harwich	Pembroke	Wareham
Carver	Hingham	Plymouth	Wellfleet
Chatham	Holbrook	Plympton	Weymouth
Cohasset	Hyannis	Provincetown	Whitman
Dennis	Kingston	Randolph	Wrentham
Dighton	Lakeville	Rochester	Yarmouth

If you live in one of these towns, you are served by a Wheelabrator Technologies waste-to-energy plant. Call Patrick Scanlon at 978-475-1776.

Acton	Hamilton	Millville	Southborough
Andover	Holden	Natick	Spencer
Arlington	Holliston	Needham	Tewksbury
Auburn	Hopedale	Newton	Upton
Bedford	Hopkinton	North Andover	Walpole
Belmont	Lexington	Northborough	Watertown
Beverly	Lincoln	Northbridge	Wenham
Billerica	Lowell	North Reading	Westborough
Boxborough	Lynn	Oxford	West Newbury
Burlington	Malden	Paxton	Westford
Carlisle	Manchester	Peabody	Weston
Chelsea	Maynard	Princeton	Westwood
Dover	Medfield	Revere	Wilmington
Dracut	Medway	Rockport	Winchester
E. Brookfield	Mendon	Rutland	Worcester
Everett	Milford	Saugus	
Franklin	Millbury	Sherborn	
Grafton	Millis	Shrewsbury	

If you live in one of these towns, you are served by the Covanta waste-to-energy plant. Call Steve Parker at 978-372-6288.

Ayer	Groton	Lynnfield	Stoneham
Chelmsford	Haverhill	Melrose	Wakefield
Danvers	Lawrence	Middleton	
Essex	Littleton	Reading	